Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and,

Whereas, The depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession meets the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings; and,

Whereas, The American Nurses Association, as the voice for the registered nurses of this country, is working to chart a new course for a healthy nation that relies on increasing delivery of primary and preventative health care; and,

Whereas, A renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care will require the better utilization of all our nation's registered nursing resources; and,

Whereas, Professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients; and,

Whereas, The demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health care services; and,

Whereas, More qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community; and,

Whereas, The cost-effective, safe, and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an ever more important component of the U.S. health care delivery system in the future; and,

Whereas, The American Nurses Association and the South Dakota Nurses Association have declared the week of May 6-12, 2004, as National Nurses Week with this year's theme, "Nurses: Your Voice, Your Health, Your Life":

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6-12, 2004, as

NURSES WEEK

in South Dakota, and I call upon all citizens to join me in honoring and recognizing the registered nurses for their care of us this week and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to ~~be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre,~~ the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State